

U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo
American Citizen Services Office
Ave. Monterrey 141 Poniente
Ph: (662) 289-3500, ext. 3595/3522/3417
E-mail hermoACS@state.gov
Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico

November 4, 2014
Security Message – Tropical Storm Vance

The U.S. Consulate General in Hermosillo alerts U.S. citizens residing and traveling in the Mexican state of Sinaloa that a tropical storm watch is in effect in Sinaloa from Mazatlan northward to Topolobampo. Mexican civil protection authorities have put Sinaloa under a “Yellow” alert level (the third level in a five-step scale).

Tropical Storm Vance is roughly 463 mi (745 km) west-southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, and moving to the north-northeast at 13 mph (20 km/hr). The current winds are 140 km/hr (85 mph) and hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 35 km (25 miles). The National Hurricane Center forecasts that the storm will rapidly weaken to a tropical storm depression by the time it reaches the coast of Mexico. The storm is expected to weaken in the next 24 to 36 hours; however, U.S. citizens in southwestern Mexico should monitor the progress of Tropical Storm Vance.

The Mexican Weather Service is calling for 4-8 inches of rain for Sinaloa and southern Sonora with up to 12 inches expected in isolated areas. Residents should expect possible life-threatening flash flooding and mudslides, especially in mountainous regions. Swells from Vance will affect portions of the coast of southwestern Mexico, producing potentially life-threatening surf and rip tide conditions.

Monitor local radio, local media, and the National Weather Service to be aware of weather developments. The U.S. National Weather Service (NWS) is following this storm. Please visit NWS’s website (www.nhc.noaa.gov), Mexico Meteorological Service (www.smn.cna.gob.mx) or Sinaloa Protección Civil (www.proteccioncivil.sinaloa.gob.mx) for updates and to follow the storm’s path. Tropical storms can develop into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Inform family and friends of your whereabouts and remain in close contact with your tour operator, hotel staff, transportation providers (airlines, cruise lines, etc.), and local officials for evacuation instructions during a weather emergency.

Protección Civil of Sinaloa has opened six shelters in Mazatlan: UAS (University of Sinaloa in Mazatlan), ICO (Instituto Cultural de Occidente), Lions Club on Insurgentes Avenue, CONALEP 1 (school), and the Sixto Osuna Elementary School in Villa Union. A list of the available shelters is available [here](#).

The U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo will continue to monitor Tropical Storm Vance’s track, and will issue updated messages as necessary. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor

media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all time (i.e. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that U.S. citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our "**Hurricane Season -- Know Before You Go**" webpage, and on the "**Natural Disasters**" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. Updated information on travel in Mexico may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens residing and traveling abroad should review the Department's Worldwide Caution and other travel information when making decisions concerning their travel plans and activities while abroad. U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**. U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the embassy/consulates to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Consulate in Hermosillo is located at Calle Monterrey #141 Poniente, Hermosillo, Sonora Mexico, and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, telephone (662) 289-3500. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the Consulate is 662 256-0741**; E-mail: HermoACS@state.gov

The U.S. Consular Agency in Mazatlan is located in the Golden Zone, Playa Gaviotas 202 local 10, Mazatlan, and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., telephone (669) 916-5889. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the Consulate is 662 256-0741**(dialing from the U.S. 011-52 + phone number); Email: ConAgencyMazatlan@state.gov